SEPA

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 2001

Site Update

Soil Cleanup to Begin in August

The Northwest Pipe and Casing site is one step closer to cleanup. Beginning in early August, EPA contractors will remove contaminated soil from the site in Clackamas, Oregon. EPA will also demolish concrete foundations and slabs remaining from former pipe coating buildings. Work on the site will consist of excavating about 16,000 cubic yards (cy) of contaminated soil (800 truckloads), screening to remove rocks and other large debris, loading soil into dump trucks, transporting soil off-site, and backfilling the excavations with clean treated soil. We expect this project to be complete by early November.

URS Corporation is EPA's prime contractor for this phase of the soil cleanup. REMTEC is the construction subcontractor. URS personnel will be present on the site at all times during construction to direct activities. Air monitoring will be conducted to ensure the contractor's dust control measures are effective. Trucks hauling soil from/to the site will use S.E. Lawnfield Road at the north end of the site.

Why are we removing this soil?

Soil at the site is contaminated with coal tar compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The goal of the removal project is to prevent any trespassers, future construction and maintenance workers, or future occupants at the site from coming in direct contact with these contaminants or accidentally ingesting (swallowing) them. This project will also eliminate potential sources of contamination to groundwater, a potential future source of drinking water. The site is expected to be redeveloped in the future.

What will happen to the contaminated soil?

The most highly contaminated soil will be sent to a permitted hazardous waste landfill in eastern Oregon. Soil that is moderately contaminated will be treated at a permitted thermal treatment facility in Portland, and then returned to the site for use as backfill.

What happens next?

The soil removal and off-site treatment/disposal is the first phase of the soil cleanup. Phase 2 of the soil cleanup will include placing a two-foot cap of clean soil over the entire site to further isolate remaining contamination from contact with people. Phase 2 is expected to occur in the next few years, when funds become available.

Groundwater Remedy will be Selected in September 2001.

From May 17 until June 18, 2001, EPA held a public comment period on the Proposed Plan for groundwater contamination. Two comments from state and local agencies were received about protecting wetlands from construction impacts and coordinating with those agencies to locate air stripping wells.

EPA will make a final selection of the groundwater remedy and publish its decision in a Record Of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also explain how the public comments were considered by EPA. EPA will announce when the groundwater ROD will be available to the public.

You can view the Administrative Record for the soil cleanup at: Clackamas Corner Branch Library, 11750 SE 82nd Ave., Suite D, Clackamas, Oregon 97266; EPA Region 10 Records Center, 7th Floor, 2100 6th Ave., Seattle, WA 98101; or the EPA Oregon Office, 811 SW 6th Ave., 3rd Floor, Portland, OR 97204.

For More Information Contact:

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The EPA Region 10 Home Page at www.epa.gov/r10earth and click "Index," and select "N" for Northwest Pipe and Casing.



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